



1011 Arlington Blvd
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22209

Tel: (703) 894-6222
concordcoalition.org

The Honorable Jim Renacci
U.S. House of Representatives
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

On behalf of The Concord Coalition, I am pleased to offer support for your bipartisan resolution calling for an annual report from the U.S. Comptroller General on the fiscal health of the country. Your proposal would increase lawmakers' awareness of a steadily-worsening outlook for the federal budget, and that awareness could serve as a catalyst for the kind of bipartisan action necessary to put America on sounder fiscal footing.

Certain regular reports, such as the Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook, provide lawmakers and their staffs with information on the drivers of the imbalance between spending and revenue in the federal budget. But a presentation from a senior official to a joint session of Congress would surely help to drive home the reality of our unsustainable tax and spending policies. New Members of Congress often enter the chamber with an incomplete understanding of these issues, and even longtime veterans often encounter budget numbers that are altered to fit the agenda of their source. Any opportunity to present impartial, nonpartisan data should therefore be encouraged.

It is our hope that, should this proposal be adopted, the data presented in annual reports from the Comptroller General will lead to action to reduce long-term deficits. Many experts from both parties, including former Comptrollers General, have warned that the federal government's entitlement promises far exceed the revenues to pay for them. This problem will get worse if inaction persists. A fact-based presentation from the Comptroller General would help to inform the discussion of fiscal sustainability and perhaps act as a spur for necessary reforms.

At a time when rising health care and retirement spending, a broken tax code and an aging population threaten the fiscal stability of the United States, it is more important than ever for lawmakers to seek opportunities to highlight the danger of our financial outlook.

We urge leaders in both parties to consider and support this effort.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bixby
Executive Director, The Concord Coalition